

ments; on liability for interest; on the duties of guardian and the wrights of widows and orphans; on the liabilities of securities; and rights of substitution for principles; on letters *ad colligendum*; by whom granted and when; and the powers conferred by the same; and the powers and jurisdiction of the Orphans Court and Register of Wills; and the entire law of the State on testamentary matters.

The work will be peculiarly adapted to instruct executors and administrators in the practical detail of their duties; it will facilitate the labors of the Orphans Court, and the Judiciary, by presenting in a condensed form, and in one volume, all the law on this most interesting branch of our jurisprudence, now scattered through the various acts, from the earliest periods of our legislation until the present time; and will furnish the Maryland bar with the decisions of every State of the Union on their testamentary code, when like unto that of our own State.

Your committee would express their surprise that the state has permitted this most interesting branch of our jurisprudence to remain so long scattered through numerous and unconnected acts of the General Assembly, thus rendering it impracticable to obtain a knowledge of it, but by a tedious, laborious and minute research. It is owing to this unconnected legislation, that the great mass of our citizens are ignorant of the provisions of our testamentary code, although daily in active operation, and controuling the interests of the whole society, especially that of the widow and the orphan.

Your committee believe that this Legislature cannot confer upon their constituents a more interesting benefit, than that of providing that the various enactments of the state in testamentary law shall be brought into one condensed and systematic arrangement.

It is not to be expected that a work exclusively on our domestic laws will circulate widely in other states, and therefore no individual will run the hazard of its publication without State patronage. It will be for the benefit of our people, and therefore the State ought, from her own resources, to patronize the publication. Your committee would therefore recommend the following resolutions:

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor be, and he is hereby authorised and requested to subscribe on the part of the State, for two hundred copies of the work on the testamentary law of the State of Maryland, proposed to be published by the Honourable Clement Dorsey, Associate Judge of the first Judicial Dis-*